rious major pest problems and a National Centre on Integrated Pest Management have been set up sepecifically to tackle problems connected with Plant Protection. The recommendations made by these institutions are passed on to farmers for adoption through various extension agencies.

In the VIII Plan, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research plans to further strengthen the plant protection programmes.

Ban on shrimp fishing by multipurpose boats in Orissa

466. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRIULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the damage being caused to shrimp fishing in Orissa by the blatant use of multipurpose trawlers for shrimp fishing;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not issuing instructions to ban such fishing; and

(c) by when Government propose to ban such fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Shrimp production in the last three years in Orissa is indicated below:

Year	Shrimp production in (Tonnes)
1985	5099
1986	6651
1987	5902

The above figures do not indicate any declining trend in the production of shrimp in Orissa.. The marginal fall in 1987 is attributed to natural fluctuations in the abundance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Report on activities of multi-purpose fishing boats

467. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee set up by Government on the activities of multipurpose fishing boats has submitted its report;

(b) what interim action has been taken to thwart such illegal fishing;

(c) the details of the directions if any, given to the Port authorities in this regard; and

(d) the actual position in view of the long pending representation of the people engaged in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The recommendations in the Report are under examination.

Water crisis in Shimla

468. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shimla has experienced a severe water crisis during this year; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As per in formation available Shimla is facing a severe water problem.

(b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh is formulating a project proposal for augmentation of water supply to Shimla from river Sutlej The State Government has been advised to prepare a detailed feasibility re-

port for technical clearance by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) and to confirm availability of plan provision for the scheme to enable the Government of India to pose it for external assistance.

Benefits of Crop Insurance Scheme

469. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state to refer to the reply to Starred Question 118 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the demands for crop Insurance Scheme for all the crops and at all levels whether Tahsil, Block or Village and; if so, what is the decision of Government in this regard, and whether the non-loanee farmers are also to be benefited; and

(b) whether there have been any complaints that certain States had not received the Central support in time in this scheme or that certain States have discontinued or are about to discontinue the scheme due to financial compulsions and if so, the details thereof and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government's attention has been drawn from time to time to cover several crops other than those already covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme and also to reduce the unit size of crop insurance from Taluka/Block to Village level. The unit size of crop insurance may be reduced to village level provided the State Governments have adequate yield data for a given insured crop for last 5 years at village level and provided it is possible for them to conduct minimum number of crop cutting experiments in all villages at the end of the season. Presently, there is no proposal to provide crop insurance benefit to the non-loanee farmers or covering any other crop.

(b) Some States have in past represented to the Government of India for timely payment of indemnity claims under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. However, no implementing State in past has discontinued the Scheme due to financial compulsions. For prompt settlement of claims, it has been decided that the General Insurance Corporation of India would work out the complete details of claims payable within two months of the receipt of yield data by them from State Governments.

Ban on use of Pesticides

470. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a member of the Planning Commission has suggested to Government to ban use of pesticides in a phased manner as these are highly poisonous; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) As reported in the Hidustan Times of 15th June, 1988, a Member of the Planning Commission had observed that certain pesticides banned for use in advanced countries are in use in India.

(b) The Government of India in August, 1984, constituted an Expert Committee to examine the utility in India of pesticides banned or phased out or restricted in use in developed countries and give suggestions for safer substitutes. The Committee has given its report on DDT, BHC, aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and EDB. The recommendations of the